(d) The quantity of coal imported during last two years is given below:

(in Million tonnes)

Year	Coking coal	Non-coking coal	Coke
2003-04	12.992	8.691	1.894
2004-05	14.835	10.465	2.782
TOTAL	27.827	19.156	4.676

(e) and (f) Geological Survey of India (GSI), under Ministry of Mines, is carrying out regional exploration of all the minerals, including coal, on a routine basis. To supplment the efforts of GSI, Ministry of Coal is sponsoring a scheme of Promotional (regional) Exploration in Coal & Lignite in the Tenth Plan. Ministry of Coal is also sponsoring another scheme on detailed drilling in Non-CIL blocks in the Tenth Plan to take up the detailed exploration of areas where CIL have no production programme.

Adoption of latest technology for coal exploration

1119. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our exploration of coal technique and strategy differs from the larger coal producing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to adopt the latest technology in the field of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The techniques and strategies adopted in India compare favourably with international practices and best suited for geological nature of Indian coalfields.

(c) There is a need for upgrading the equipment from time to time depending upon the need and the efficiency, which is being addressed regularly. As reported by Coal India Limited, recently two high-tech Geophysical instruments for Borehole Logging have been imported. Two deep capacity drills are expected by September, 2005 for taking up exploration of deep-seated coal seams. Better softwares/equipments for geological modeling, web enabling and coal bed methane assessment in coal are also under process of procurement within the Tenth Plan Period.